

Statement on the Physical Age of the Earth and Universe by the Affiliation of Christian Geologists

The Affiliation of Christian Geologists is committed to the historic Christian faith and to its meaningful integration with the best available science. This effort reflects our desire to serve God with all our minds. Data from science also help us to serve our neighbors and to care for God's creation. Investigations of the Earth and the universe have been ongoing for hundreds of years using such scientific methodologies as:

- astronomical data from telescopes and satellites
- observation of the physical makeup and arrangement of earth and extraterrestrial materials
- chemical and physical analytical study of rocks, sediments, soils, water, air, ice, and meteorites found on Earth as well as lunar and Martian materials
- experimental synthesis to determine the origins of earth and extraterrestrial matter
- analytical determination of absolute ages of natural materials, and
- mathematical and computer modeling of the above observations and processes.

Beginning in the mid-1600's, geologists and astronomers (including many Christians) have consistently found that the scientific evidence clearly favors a vast age for the earth and the universe. Current scientific calculations indicate that the universe began about 13 billion years ago and the earth about 4.6 billion years ago. These conclusions are based on cumulative evidence and are refined with each new study. All scientific knowledge is constrained by the limitations of the methods of inquiry and discovery. We are limited and sometimes mistaken in our understanding of both nature and Scripture, but ultimately the two must not conflict, both coming from the same Creator. Although Scripture contains essential information on origins that gives meaning and perspective, technical details of the method and timing of creation are not major concerns of the Biblical text, and many orthodox theologians do not see a conflict between the Bible and an old creation.